NEXTDC

DATA CENTRE EVALUATION CHECKLIST

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THE COMPREHENSIVE DATA CENTRE EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Choosing a data centre partner is now a board-level decision. As AI and digital services scale, the facility that houses your critical systems shapes your exposure to outage, cyber and regulatory risk, and your ability to grow when capacity is in short supply.

The cost of getting it wrong is rising. One in five respondents to Uptime Institute's 2026 outage research reported that their most recent major outage cost more than US$1 million[1], while data centre vacancy in Sydney has fallen to 4.5% as AI demand absorbs new supply[2].

This checklist gives your executive and technical teams a consistent framework for comparing up to four providers against the key criteria that protect operations, meet compliance obligations and support future growth.

Our comprehensive data centre evaluation criteria

1. Proven industry experience
2. Power
3. Fire protection
4. Network and connectivity
5. Security
6. Location
7. Growth and scalability
8. Services offered
9. Amenities

1 Uptime Institute, Annual Outage Analysis 2026.
2 CBRE, Global Data Center Trends 2026 (Q1 2026 data).

DATA CENTRE EVALUATION CHECKLIST

PROVEN INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

	COLOCATION PROVIDERS			
	Colocation Provider A	Colocation Provider B	Colocation Provider C	Colocation Provider D
Is the provider a publicly listed company, with audited financial statements and a funded development pipeline?				
Does the provider hold Uptime Institute Tier IV certification for design, constructed facility and operations?				
Has the provider operated data centres for more than 10 years, with a proven record of continuous availability?				
Does the provider offer a contractual 100% uptime guarantee, supported by commercial rebates?				
PROVEN INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE SCORE	0	0	0	0

POWER

Is the entire facility, including all mechanical plant, protected by UPS to maintain continuous power delivery and cooling?				
Is the facility designed for concurrent maintainability and fault tolerance, with no single point of failure in power or cooling?				
Can the provider demonstrate live, high-density AI and GPU deployments above 100kW per rack, including direct-to-chip liquid cooling?				
Are on-site generators continuous rated for 24 x 7 x 365 operation, with a minimum of 24 hours of fuel held on site?				
Has the provider secured grid connection capacity and renewable power purchase agreements to support your future growth, with clean energy a clear timeline for delivery?				
DATA CENTRE POWER SCORE	0	0	0	0

FIRE PROTECTION

Does the facility have very early warning aspirating smoke detection (e.g. VESDA) within data halls?				
Does the facility have outside air quality detection and automated bushfire shutdown?				
Are all zones compartmentalised with a two-hour fire rating, reducing the risk of catastrophic failure?				
Does the facility have thermal, smoke and flame detection to provide early warning of fire?				
DATA CENTRE FIRE PROTECTION SCORE	0	0	0	0

NETWORK AND CONNECTIVITY

Is the data centre carrier-neutral, with a broad choice of carriers and managed network providers on site?				
Is there direct, secure access to major cloud on-ramps, internet exchanges and digital service providers within the facility?				
Are there at least two secure, physically-separated internal carrier meet-me rooms accessible by fully diverse fibre paths?				
Can you provision private, on-demand interconnection to clouds, carriers and other data centres through a self-service platform?				
Are there diverse, redundant fibre routes into the data centre from multiple independent carriers?				
DATA CENTRE NETWORK AND CONNECTIVITY SCORE	0	0	0	0



SECURITY

Is the facility equipped with an anti-scale perimeter security system?				
Is the facility staffed 24/7 by on-site security and operations personnel?				
Are there customised private security cage solutions available?				
Is access to secure areas controlled through security portals (mantraps), with government-issued photo ID required for site induction?				
Is the facility equipped with motion-sensitive, high-definition CCTV covering all access points and internal areas, with footage stored for at least 90 days?				
Is the provider Certified Strategic under the Australian Government's Hosting Certification Framework?				
Are customer cabinets and cages protected by individual electronic access controls, with remote management and a full audit trail?				
Does the provider hold ISO/IEC 27001 certification and issue independent SOC 2 Type 2 assurance reports?				
DATA CENTRE SECURITY SCORE	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

LOCATION

Is the data centre located in a flood-free zone, outside areas of high risk from natural hazards such as bushfire and storm surge?				
Does the provider operate facilities in multiple Australian cities, enabling geographically diverse backup and disaster recovery?				
DATA CENTRE LOCATION SCORE	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

GROWTH AND SCALABILITY

Does the provider have expansion plans in your region, with capacity available to support your growth?				
Can the provider scale with you, from a single rack to private suites or built-to-suit facilities, without the need to relocate?				
Is the provider certified in the NVIDIA DGX-Ready Data Center program and able to support NVIDIA AI factory deployments at scale?				
DATA CENTRE GROWTH AND SCALABILITY SCORE	0	0	0	0

SERVICES OFFERED

Is 24/7 remote hands support available for technical, equipment and general rack assistance?				
Is there a delivery acceptance and storage area available for customers?				
Is dedicated office space available for your mission critical teams?				
Can you manage services, monitor power and environmental conditions, and request tasks through an authenticated self-service portal?				
Does the provider support migration from another data centre, including customer-owned racks?				
DATA CENTRE SERVICES OFFERED SCORE	0	0	0	0



AMENITIES

Does the data centre have undercover loading docks with semi-trailer access?				
Are there freight elevators available?				
Are bookable staging rooms and dedicated storage rooms available?				
Is the site easily accessible by air, rail and road?				
Are customer breakout areas available, including kitchen facilities and workspaces?				
Does the provider publish energy efficiency (PUE), water and emissions data annually under Australia's mandatory climate reporting standard (ASRS, AASB S2)?				
Are disaster recovery suites available?				
Are end-of-trip facilities available, including showers and change rooms?				
Are complimentary meeting, board and multimedia rooms available?				
DATA CENTRE AMENITIES SCORE	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

FINAL SCORE

	Colocation Provider A	Colocation Provider B	Colocation Provider C	Colocation Provider D
TOTAL DATA CENTRE SCORE	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

44 OR GREATER:
Indicates a premium provider that will likely be a strong partner for your organisational objectives.

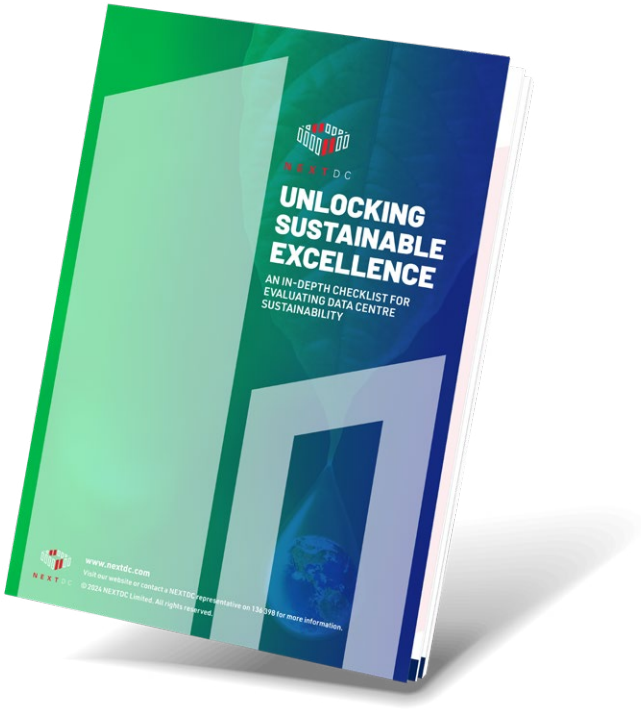
32 to 43:
Indicates risks are present but may be resolved with additional due diligence.

LESS THAN 31:
Indicates a low-grade provider that may represent significant risk to your organisation.

Maximum possible score: 45

ACCELERATE YOUR SUSTAINABILE DIGITAL JOURNEY

Once you have completed this checklist, explore our companion resource, the Data Centre Sustainability Evaluation Checklist. It helps you assess how well each provider supports your sustainability goals and the energy and emissions data you need for your own reporting.



Make sustainability measurable.

Mandatory climate-related financial reporting now applies to Australia's largest organisations, so the energy and emissions data your data centre provider supplies needs to stand up to scrutiny.

DOWNLOAD DATA CENTRE SUSTAINABILITY EVALUATION CHECKLIST

TALK TO OUR SPECIALISTS ABOUT YOUR EVALUATION RESULTS

Our team can take you through your results and help you plan for the power, density, connectivity and compliance requirements of your next phase of growth.

GET IN TOUCH

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